

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CALCUT 00494 200352 Z

64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 MC-02

ACDA-19 T-03 OMB-01 GAC-01 EB-11 CU-04 AID-20 RSR-01

INRE-00 /139 W

----- 095922

P R 191030 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3309

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJ: ARMS TO PAKISTAN

1. LOCAL REACTION TO US DECISION TO LIFT EMBARGO ON ARMS TO PAKISTAN HAS THUS FAR BEEN SURPRISINGLY MUTED. DESPITE BLARING HEADLINES AND ANGRY EDITORIALS, PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL CIRCLES WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT OVER WEEKEND SEEM TO HAVE ACCEPTED DEVELOPMENT CALMLY AND MATTER- OF- FACTLY. WE HAVE HAD MINOR CPI- SPONSORED DEMONSTRATION MARCH 17 BEFORE USIS PREMISES AND YOUTH CONGRESS/ CHHATRA PRASAD IS SCHEDULED TO HAVE ANOTHER TODAY. ALL IN ALL, HOWEVER, BITTERNESS AND RESENTMENT WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED FEELING ON ISSUE IN PAST IS NOTICEABLY LACKING.

2. GENERAL MOOD OF ACCEPTANCE EXEMPLIFIED AT LARGE SOCIAL FUNCTION GIVEN BY SHERIFF OF CALCUTTA AFTERNOON OF MARCH 16, WHICH I ATTENDED ALONG WITH GOVERNOR, CHIEF MINISTER, SEVERAL STATE CABINET MEMBERS, HIGH MILITARY OFFICIALS, AND TOP CIVIL SERVANTS. NONE OF LUMINARIES PRESENT EXHIBITED COOLNESS TOWARD ME (AS SOME DID DURING EARLIER

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PERIODS OF INDO- US STRAIN) AND NONE BROUGHT UP SUBJECT.
PERHAPS MORE SIGNIFICANT WAS FACT THAT SOCIAL WELFARE AND
RELIEF MINISTER SANTOSH ROY TOOK ME ASIDE TO MAKE
PLEA FOR INCREASED TITLE II AID (SEPTEL FOLLOWS). THIS IS
FIRST TIME ANY MEMBER CONGRESS GOVT. HAS APPROACHED ME
DIRECTLY WITH REQUEST FOR ANY SORT OF AID.

3. WHATEVER THE REASONS FOR THE SWITCH IN BEHAVIOR, IT
SEEMS THAT THE " NEW REALISM" MAY BE TAKING ROOT.

DECONTROL MARCH 30, 1973.
GORDON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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